

(d) Of the funds appropriated in this act to the Wildlife Resources Commission for the 1998-99 fiscal year, up to the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) shall be used to provide the State share necessary to support the beaver damage control program as revised in this section, provided the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) in federal funds is available for the 1998-99 fiscal year to provide the federal share.

(e) Section 16 of S.L. 1998-23 is repealed.

Requested by: Senator Kerr, Representative Creech

#### **CLEAN WATER GRANTS/CLARIFICATION**

**Section 14.19.** (a) Section 5.1(g) of S.L. 1998-132 reads as rewritten:

"(g) Unsewered Community Grants. The proceeds of fifty-five million dollars (\$55,000,000) of Clean Water Bonds shall be used to provide grants to eligible local government units to assist with wastewater treatment works and wastewater collection systems. Such grants shall be awarded and administered by the Rural Economic Development Center.

The proceeds of this fifty-five million dollars (\$55,000,000) of Clean Water Bonds shall be awarded on the following criteria:

- (1) The applicant shall be a local government unit.
- (2) The applicant's population shall not exceed 5,000 persons using the most recent annual population estimates certified by the State Planning Officer.
- (3) The applicant shall be an unsewered community.
- (4) The applicant's median household income shall not exceed ninety percent (90%) of the national median household income using the most recently updated income figures made available from the Bureau of the Census.
- (5) The applicant has agreed by official resolution to adopt and place into effect on or before completion of the project a schedule of fees and charges for the proper operation, maintenance, and administration of the project. The schedule of fees and charges shall reflect at least the average annual water and wastewater cost per household calculated at one and one-half percent (1 1/2%) of the median household income of the applicant. However, if the applicant is a local government unit that upon completion of the project will have only a single utility, then, the schedule of fees and charges shall reflect at least the average annual water or wastewater cost as appropriate per household calculated at three fourths percent (3/4%) of the median household income of the applicant.
- (6) The applicant must submit as part of the application packet a preliminary engineering report, including an analysis of possible wastewater service alternatives, and an environmental assessment.

An applicant who satisfies the criteria under this subsection (g) may be eligible for up to ninety percent (90%) of the total project cost.

The Rural Economic Development Center shall award grants to units of local government for the purposes authorized by this subsection in accordance with the criteria set forth in this subsection. The proceeds of the